



newsounds

# Short Vs Long

By SCOTT HOLTZMAN

My desk has been piling up with letters, both pro and con on my slam at the schools (Sept 10). I've even managed to make Sound-Off a couple of times. Thought perhaps I'd let you see a couple and give myself a chance to answer them publicly.

"Mr Holtzman: As you know, you are one of the few adults that Houston teens look up to, and so you are in a position of authority. On the whole, your articles are excellent . . . however I must protest Sunday's article! . . . You claim that only the teachers are distracted and not the students. Open your eyes—nothing, not even miniskirts, is more distracting—even if the hair is clean . . . You talk of individuality—well, sir, there is conformity in non-conformity! You should realize that now a crew-cut displays more individuality, because fewer men have their hair cut short.

"I have seen students forget everything else in the classroom as they stare at the long-haired boy and wonder whether or not he is on drugs, LSD, or a homosexual. You are not a teacher or a student, so how can you place yourself as the all-mighty judge? . . . If your article should inspire a boy to drop out of school, or causes any trouble—well, I just hope you enjoy it in Hippieland with the addicts and the unclean and the drunks and the uneducated . . . As for me, I will get my fill of boys who look like girls, because I enroll in college next week. Colleges are infamous for bringing out "individualism" as you obviously think of it. Individualism is

great—but remember to think about the other fellow. P.S. You made a very handsome man, but you look sick as a girl. Ann Gaither"

Dear Ann: I'm for every student dressing and wearing his or her hair in whatever manner suits the individual, it be crewcut or long hair. Your constant references to homosexuality and "boys who look like girls" only shows me that you are insecure in your own femininity. Throughout history, real men have worn long hair. I have yet to meet a super-longhair who is homosexual, and I know most of them in this area personally.

I have never encouraged anyone to drop out of school. For your information, I am a college graduate and I have been a teacher. You display exactly the kind of prejudice which makes you and the individuals around you just a little bit more miserable as they go through this life.

I am neither a hippie, an addict, a drunk, unclean or uneducated, so I doubt that I'll enjoy the company you seem to think I seek. I sincerely hope you won't drop out of college due to your obvious lack of ability to concentrate on your own business. S. H.

To Martha Gibson: In regard to your letter to Sound-Off, I'm truly sorry you felt I spoke out against education. I didn't mean school is a rut, I meant that it can be a rut when young people are not allowed the basic freedoms on which this great country was founded. You are lucky that your teachers are not prejudiced or narrow-minded. I've got many letters on my desk of incidents where it is the teachers and coaches who are

the most insulting to the students.

There's one case where a girl got put down with "Why do you want to be different?" This is inconceivable to me. I thought that was what education was all about.

I have another case of a male teacher who asked a girl if she wanted to show her bottom by wearing a miniskirt. Then, he proceeded to ask her to turn around and show him her bottom. She won't report it to her parents, though I advised her to, because she is afraid she'll be kicked out of school. Don't tell me teachers are not prejudiced.

"Dear Mr Holtzman: The encouraging article in which you defend the right of individuality and take up for those 'who take pride in being immaculate in manner and in dress' is the best yet! I have long thought it to be the most ridiculous situation when a boy can actually be kicked out of school for wearing his hair slightly longer than a crewcut. But it seemed like everyone I talked to over 20 years of age, could not see any sense in the fact that a boy should want to quit school before he would cut his hair. And when it is his right? I would like to congratulate you, and let you know just how good it is to find out that there are some people who are broad minded enough to see when something is wrong and brave enough to call attention to it. Thanks! S. Montraville"

Mr Montraville: Thank you. I maintain that it is the educational system which is at fault when they create a situation that forces students with backbone to even consider dropping out of school. We need more of them. S. H.

## newsounds calendar

Houston Post  
10-1-67

### WEDNESDAY

The Kings — Montgomery Ward, Pasadena

### FRIDAY

The Rebellers—Teen Hall, Bryan  
13th Hour, Loud Crowd—Electric Tangerine

fever tree—Rinky-Dink, 9801 Airline

### SATURDAY

The Loud Crowd, 13th Hour—Electric Tangerine Life Machine Teen Club, 10650 Hirsch

The Deuce Is Wilde—Mount Carmel High

Dante's Inferno—Lions Club, Pearland

fever tree—The Box, Beaumont

Oct 14 — Eric Burdon and The Animals, Grand Parli, Bay City

The newsounds calendar prints the public performance of teen music groups in the Houston area. Send the information to newsounds calendar, Modern Living, The Houston Post, Houston, Texas 77001.